

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Gart for conducting a telephonic conference with Applicants' representatives, Mr. Patrick Yoder and Mr. Manish Vyas, on March 10 and 11, 2004. Applicants respectfully assert that the present amendments to the claims reflect Applicants' proposals presented during the telephonic conference. Respectfully, Applicants assert that the foregoing amendments place the pending claims in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action dated July 14, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1-46 and withdrew from consideration claims 12-19 and 26-30. However, claims 12-19 and 26-30 were previously canceled in the Response to Restriction Requirement filed on February 21, 2003. In any event, by the present Response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 20, 22, and 34, canceled claims 21 and 36 without prejudice, and added new claims 47-54. With regard to the new claims 47-54, Applicants respectfully assert that these new claims contain no new matter. In summary, claims 1-11, 20-25, 27-35 and 37-54 are pending in the present application. All pending claims are believed to be allowable over the prior of record, and their reconsideration is requested.

In the Office Action dated July 14, 2003, all the pending claims were rejected for a sole reason: As being anticipated by the Nick reference (U.S. Patent 6,003,012). The present application currently includes seven independent claims, namely, claims 1, 20, 31, 34, 42, 47, and 50. In a broad sense, each of these claims recites configuring or programming a component or object by downloading items from a database into the memory object or programmable component. Applicants emphasize that this feature is not found or suggested by the Nick reference.

The Nick reference relates to a switchboard configuration computer program module that has four basic functions: automating the process of entering orders, providing a design template for standard switchboards, ordering parts, and scheduling assembly of the standard switchboards. *See* Nick, col. 3, ll. 9-14. Accordingly, the program of the Nick

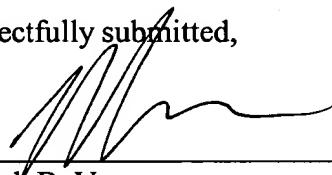
reference does not download, configure, or program any memory object of a component. Rather, the program module of Nick simply provides a tool for planning and ordering switchboards and switchboard equipment. *See id.*, col. 3, col. 20, ll. 1-4. Once the parts are ordered and the plans are developed, the Nick reference does not address the programming or configuring of the switchboard or components of the switchboard. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the Nick reference does not disclose all the features recited in the instant claims.

With the foregoing in mind, Applicants respectfully assert that the pending claims are patentable over the Nick reference, because the instant claims recite features not found in the Nick reference. Respectfully, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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